

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 SIG-03 MMO-01 ISO-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SS-15  
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HA-05 NSC-05 /078 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/USOAS STAFF:AB

APPROVED BY ARA/USOAS:MDION

-----039760 241604Z /43

P 241553Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 161633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, SHUM, EGEN, ETRD, XM

SUBJECT:STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AT OASGA  
INFORMAL DIALOGUE SESSION - AFTERNOON, JUNE 23, 1978

USDEL 6

FOLLOWING IS BASIC TEXT (VARIATIONS POSSIBLE) OF  
STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AT OASGA  
INFORMAL DIALOGUE SESSION AFTERNOON, JUNE 23, 1978:

MR. CHAIRMAN:

-- IN THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY VANCE I WOULD LIKE  
TO MAKE A BRIEF GENERAL STATEMENT ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT  
ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS DURING  
THIS INFORMAL DIALOGUE.

-- MY DELEGATION WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE STATEMENT  
MADE THIS MORNING BY FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL AND I WOULD  
SIMPLY LIKE TO REPEAT OUR CONVICTION THAT SOME CREATIVE  
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DIALOGUE, CARRIED ON AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN THE NORMAL

DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OF THE ORGANIZATION, CAN PRODUCE  
THE CONSENSUS WE SEEK ON THE FUTURE OF THIS VITAL  
INSTITUTION.

-- AGREEMENT ON OUR MUTUAL GOALS, AND THE REFORMS

NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEM, MUST PRECEDE DECISION ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE THREE DRAFT DOCUMENTS BEFORE US. IN OTHER WORDS, BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT ACTION TO REFORM THE SYSTEM WE MUST AGREE ON WHAT WE WANT THE SYSTEM TO DO.

-- MY DELEGATION LOOKS FORWARD TO CAREFUL STUDY IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND OBJECTIVES OF SUCH A NEGOTIATING GROUP AND TO A FINAL RESOLUTION THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE NEGOTIATING GROUP TO BECOME A REALITY AND GET UNDERWAY SOON.

-- LET ME TURN TO ANOTHER THEME OF GREAT CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT, A THEME PRESIDENT CARTER DEALT WITH WITH FRANKNESS AND CONVICTION IN HIS REMARKS AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION. WE JOIN IN THE ABHORRENCE OF TERRORISM BOTH OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT. WE BELIEVE IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO COMBAT TERROR WITH TERROR.

-- WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

-- THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES CAN CONGRATULATE ITSELF ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTED AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH RESULTED IN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE RESOURCES OF THE COMMISSION AND A MOST WELCOME AND MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF MANY GOVERNMENTS TOWARD ITS WORK.

-- THIS SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION FOR ALL OF US; WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF OUR SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION TO ASSURE ITS AUTONOMY AND COOPERATE IN THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS EXCELLENT WORK.

-- THREE EXCELLENT REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION ARE ON THE REGULAR AGENDA OF THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE PROPOSE AND HOPE THAT THE CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON EACH REPORT.

-- IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS EACH MEMBER STATE CAN MAKE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE IS TO WELCOME ITS REQUEST TO PAY AN ON-SITE VISIT.

-- LET ME REITERATE MY GOVERNMENT'S STANDING

INVITATION TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
TO VISIT THE US AT A TIME AND PLACE OF ITS CHOOSING.

-- I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND  
THE STRONGEST SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT TO THE STATEMENT  
MADE THIS MORNING BY THE DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER  
OF COSTA RICA.

-- THE US GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO  
CLARIFY ANY AMBIGUITY IN THE STATUS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AS WE ARE IN A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD  
OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS (PACT OF SAN JOSE).

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-- THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS  
AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM; ITS ROLE  
HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO THE DEFENSE AND ENHANCEMENT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR HEMISPHERE.

-- THE COMMISSION'S EXISTENCE, AS WE ALL KNOW,  
PREDATES THE SAN JOSE PACT BY MANY YEARS; ITS AUTHORITY  
DERIVES FROM THE CHARTER, FROM ITS STATUTES AND FROM THE  
AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MAN.

-- WE AGREE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF COSTA RICA  
THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TAKE  
ACTION TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION WHEN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS RATIFIED BY THE ELEVENTH MEMBER STATE.

-- WE BELIEVE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD ADOPT  
A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CONTINUED AUTHORITY OF THE  
PRESENT COMMISSION, MAINTAINING THE FUNDING, AUTONOMY  
AND CONTINUITY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND ASSURING THAT THE NEW  
COMMISSION WILL RETAIN JURISDICTION, UNDER THE CHARTER,  
FOR NON-RATIFYING STATUS.

-- THUS MY GOVERNMENT STRONGLY BACKS THE INITIATIVES  
OF THE DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER OF COSTA RICA AND  
WE WILL SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS TO THIS EFFECT NEXT WEEK.

-- ECONOMIC QUESTIONS HAVE HAD GREAT IMPORTANCE  
AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MANY DELEGATIONS HAVE  
RAISED ISSUES OF GREAT CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT.

ALLEGATIONS OF PROTECTIONISM

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-- THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM, AND WE OPPOSE A RETURN TO PROTECTIONISM AS A GRAVE DANGER TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMY.

-- AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS SPEECH HERE TWO DAYS AGO, QUOTE I HAVE FOUGHT HARD TO RESIST PROTECTIONISM ... AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. UNQUOTE.

#### GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

-- THE US GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES IS A SINCERE, BROAD-BASED EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR INCREASED PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR THEIR EXPORTS IN THE US MARKET. TRADE STATISTICS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS BEAR OUT THAT IT HAS GIVEN A CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS TO LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS.

-- THE US GSP PROGRAM GRANTS DUTY-FREE ENTRY TO NEARLY 3000 ITEMS OUT OF A TOTAL DUTIABLE LIST OF 6000 ITEMS. THESE ALSO ACCOUNT FOR HALF OF TOTAL DUTIABLE NON-PETROLEUM IMPORTS BY VALUE. ACTUAL DUTY-FREE IMPORTS UNDER THE US GSP PROGRAM ROSE OVER 20 PERCENT IN 1977 TO ALMOST \$4 BILLION.

-- WE ENCOURAGE THE FILING OF PETITIONS FOR THE ADDITION TO THE GSP DUTY-FREE LIST OF NEW PRODUCTS; THIS SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO ANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITHIN THE OAS, WE HAVE AGREED TO A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE US GSP PROGRAM IN THE FALL OF 1978.

#### SUGAR

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-- AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS YESTERDAY, PRESIDENT CARTER MET WITH SENATORS CHURCH AND LONG AND SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO DISCUSS SUGAR POLICY; THIS IS

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE PROMPT ACTION LEADING TOWARD RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT REMAINS THE  
BASIS FOR US SUGAR POLICY.

-- THE PRESIDENT IS TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST  
IN SEEKING A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE CONGRESS  
AND THE ADMINISTRATION. HE IS SEEKING A DOMESTIC SUGAR  
PROGRAM THAT WILL BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE AGREEMENT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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USDEL 6  
**TAGS:** SHUM, EGEN, ETRD, PORG, XM, US, OAS, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN D)  
**To:** ARA POSTS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014